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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE WINCHESTER HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Mass.) publishes a very interesting monthly known as *The Winchester Record*, devoted seemingly to a review of the historical records of the towns of Massachusetts. The current number contains very many articles that are of value to the world outside of the limited circle of Winchester readers. Those which appeal more directly to us are a couple by Rev. Leander Thompson, a gentleman whom we have personally known and highly respected for many years. His first article is upon Old Woburn Homes, in the course of which he thus refers to two well known characters (though in rather different directions) who came from that old town:

"Some persons yet living remember a low and insignificant-looking house that once stood near the corner of the present entrance to Park Street and quite near the present Baptist Church yard. But little is known of its history except that it was very old and was once the home and bakery of Capt. Joseph Bond, the father and grandfather of the famous bakers of that name in Wilmington, Boston, New York, Brooklyn, and elsewhere. . . . Another son of Capt. Joseph Bond married, in 1808, a daughter of Sheriff Abijah Thompson, of North Woburn, and subsequently became widely known in New York and vicinity as the man who introduced there the then famous Boston bread.

"Among the old homes, though not the oldest, in North Woburn, is that now known as the Rumford house. It was built by Capt. Ebenezer Thompson, according to one good authority, in 1714. There is, however, some reason to believe that the exact year cannot now be fixed. It is safe to say that the house is now not far from one hundred and sixty-five years old. In the west lower front room the future scientist, Count Rumford, was born, March 26, 1753, and there four, perhaps five, generations of descendants from the original occupant, Ebenezer Thompson, have had their home. During the last eight years the house has been owned by the Rumford Historical Association, under whose direction it has been extensively repaired and a part of it made a depository of relics of days gone by, the room in which Count Rumford was born being reserved for, and at present occupied by, the Rumford Library."

A second article by Rev. Mr. Thompson takes up the history of the Baldwin apple, and traces it, with clearness and impartiality, through the various assumed channels of its growth back to the several claimants of its discovery, and sums up his argument in these words:

"It is true there are discrepancies in some minor and unimportant details of the history, and, considering the great number of narrators of the common traditions and the lapse of time (more than a century), it is a marvel that these discrepancies are so few, while the agreement is so general as to the main facts, namely: that Wilmington possessed the original tree, that the first scions for engrafting were taken from that tree, and that all claimants, except, possibly, the town of Baldwin, Maine, agree upon the connection of Col. Loammi Baldwin, of North Woburn, with the name and propagation of this fruit. This perfect agreement in the entire community, embracing the families whose names ever have been, and still are, most intimately associated with the apple, constitutes an argument as nearly infallible as is possible in such a case.

"It is of very little importance whether Baldwin was surveying when he discovered the apple, as some tell us, or whether Samuel Thompson, as others tell us, was surveying and made the discovery, or whether they were in company in the surveying and discovery. Nor is it vital whether Baldwin cut the first scions for his large orchard from this one tree, as some would have it, or that the Thompson brothers first did this and supplied Baldwin from their own trees, as their children have always understood it. The one essential point, that Wilmington was the home of the apple, is not impaired."

THERE has been a great influx of late years of works upon House Decoration and Furnishing, made up of considerable that was valuable and very much that was absolutely worthless. There is, in truth, a large proportion of the people here who have the taste for beautiful surroundings fully developed, and very many of them seek some convenient hand-book to instruct them how to best make these surroundings congenial.

A new book upon this subject has been sent us; it is entitled *The House Handsome*, and was written and published by E. O. Randell, of Columbus, Ohio. It is filled with excellent ideas and has many valuable suggestions. The following advice concerning the selection of papers, is worthy reproduction:

"With wall papers, color is the chief subject to be dealt with, and concerning no other subject are even educated people so pertinaciously uninformed. No law is so frequently violated or ignored as the law of complementary colors. The hues and tones of the walls and ceiling of a room should be governed, not by whim or fancy, but by shape, height and light and many governing circumstances. The body paper properly selected, dado, frieze, border, edging, stiling, corners, center-pieces, etc., all follow according to laws of complementary colors and harmony of pattern or figure. By adherence to these simple laws, almost any desired effect may be produced. The colors may be so employed as to depress or enliven the room; as for example, blue is cold, quieting; red, warm and exciting. Other colors have divers effects upon the tone of the room. The prominence or subordination of effect may be greatly increased by proper use of color and figure in the decoration and trimmings, such as border, dado, etc. Blue produces the effect of distance, and placed on the ceiling causes it to appear higher, or used in a recess produces the appearance of greater depth. Yellow, on the contrary, appears to advance toward the eye; it will lower the ceiling and advance the wall. Red is the only color that remains stationary. Furniture and costume show to a better advantage when the walls of the room are dark, while pictures look best on a light background. With these preliminary hints at the principles that should govern our household art and our efforts to make

our home handsome, we venture to enter in turn the rooms that constitute a modern dwelling, and designate somewhat in detail the standards that may or must prevail in giving them an appropriate and artistic appearance."

The excellent illustrations appearing from time to time in this paper from Mr. Glenn Brown, of Washington, have no doubt caused our readers to be interested in anything that gentleman may publish. During the past year he contributed a series of articles to *The Sanitary Engineer* upon "Healthy Foundations for Houses," and these articles have been gathered together into a volume bearing the same title and published by D. Van Nostrand in his Science Series. The work is full of that practical, common sense advice and direction so much needed by architects, builders, plumbers and all those who have it in their power, by either ignorance or carelessness, to endanger our health if not our lives by building our houses with an insecure or an unhealthy construction.

If it is possible to reach the intelligence or conscience of the Buddenicks of our cities, who practically have our lives in their keeping, by means of literature upon the subject, we know of none more likely to be effective than such as that given us by Mr. Brown. There can't be too much of it, when it is the right sort, and plenty of that sort has appeared from time to time in the columns of *The Sanitary Engineer*.

An admirable reason for the publication of this book of instructions is found, if any be required, in this paragraph:

Conclusion from Experiments.—The inference drawn is that soil is an excellent filter for impure or infected air that may pass through it, but a very poor filter for infected water that may percolate through the soil. The experimenters say: "From these results it appears very clearly that sand interposes absolutely no barrier between wells and the bacterial infection from cess-pools, cemeteries, etc., lying even at great distances in the lower wet stratum of sand. And it appears probable that a dry gravel, or possibly a dry, very coarse sand interposes no barrier to the free entrance into houses built upon them, of these organisms which swarm in the ground-air around leaching cess-pools, leaky drains (sewers), etc., or in the filthy made ground of cities. . . . If the drift of leaching be towards the cellar, very wet seasons may extend the polluted moisture to the cellar walls, whence after evaporation the germs will pass into the atmospheric circulation of the house."

Another series of experiments were made to ascertain the effect of air which either remained stationary or passed in a current over the surface of polluted water. In other words, will ground-air take infectious germs from the surface of polluted water and carry these germs into the house?"

"THE CROSS OF MONTEREY," and a few other poems, is the title of a neat little volume written by Richard Edward White and published by the California Publishing Company of San Francisco.

The traditions of the padres and the establishment of the missions, have always been favorite subjects with the writers, in poetry and prose, of California, and some of the pleasantest and cleverest sketches from the Pacific slope have had for their foundation the efforts of the Spanish or Mexican priests to christianize the aborigines of the Golden State. Bret Harte has given us some charming descriptions of this early life, and it has apparently been the well from which inspiration has been drawn for all the poets west of the Sierras.

This last collection of poems by Mr. White is interesting and fairly well written, without evincing any marked ability; the first pages are devoted to incidents connected with the early history of the state, and, what may be termed the second part, is given up to humorous or sentimental pieces of a few verses each; some of the former are very good and their style may be seen from the following extract. It is part of a poem entitled, "The Old Forty-Niner," and touches upon the memories aroused by reading of his death, describes his taste for "yarns" and concludes:

He argued with the greatest zest,
'Twas difficult to put him out;
And, strange to say, he talked the best
Of what he knew the least about.

When one a stubborn fact would bring,
He thus would say: "Young friend of mine,
You cannot tell me anything,
For I've been here since forty nine."

He told us of a dreadful ride,
By red men tracked through tule grass;
And how, when all seemed safe, there died,
By random shot, his Indian lass.

"I raised her up, but she was dead;
My own dear wife—ah! cruel fates!"
We pitied him, but then he said:
"My other wife is in the States."

A CONVENT IN CAIRO. "After driving through the ruins and dust heaps, with here and there a fine garden among them belonging to some rich inhabitant, I at length stopped before an open space with a sort of narrow lane or street leading from nowhere to nowhere apparently.

"But the driver told me to descend, and my Bible woman, who had been there before, guided me down the narrow, dark passage. We then turned out down another, narrower and darker still, and I stepped into a pool of mud, not being able to see my way (it had been watered on account of the heat). Scrambling out of this, I found myself on some broken and very dirty stone steps. A ray of early sunshine (for it was only seven o'clock) penetrated the gloom of the high walls and showed a door standing wide open. No locks, no trim, formal portress, only a ragged boy who, on being asked if this was St. George's Convent, replied by pointing before him and we entered straightway into a sort of court, partly open to the sky, partly roofed over, a very rude kitchen on one side, and two or three little dens for water jars, etc. A staircase, open to the sky, led up to a terrace on which the cells all opened. Divided from the court by a screen of very fine, though rather dilapidated carved trellis work, was the chief apartment, whose only furniture were an ancient dimity covered divan and a mat on which four or five women were seated, one with a

book, another repairing a priestly garment of violet silk, and the Abbess, who is *Rayya*, or head (feminine of *Rays*), was smoking a cigar and carressing a pretty little child playing about her knees—the daughter, she said, of the servant of the convent.

"These were the nuns; one or two more were in the kitchen, and a few in their cells. There were only ten in all beside the *Rayya*. All were dressed in a simple but very convenient garb, that of the Egyptian peasant woman, the only difference being that it was all black, instead of being, as with the secular females, partly or entirely dark blue. A veil of thin black muslin was on the head, the throat bare and without jewels; otherwise there was nothing in any way distinctive save a cross at the side."—*M. L. Whalley in The Quiver for July*.

MR. WILLIAM T. COMSTOCK (6 Astor Place, New York City), has sent us a copy of "Architectural Studies, Part I., Twelve Designs for Low-Cost Houses." The work is in portfolio form, and shows a series of designs, as the title indicates, for country dwellings of fair or moderate prices. The prospectus which opens Part I. gives this promise:

"We offer the following plates as the first of a series of publications on various Architectural subjects. Our purpose in this series is to give a large variety of practical examples. We have started with the subject of 'Low-Cost Houses,' in deference to the constant demand made for designs of this character. In this part will appear the prize designs published some short time since in *Building*. The call for the numbers containing these designs has been such that they are now exhausted, and we have felt that we were meeting a want by reprinting them here. At frequent intervals we shall follow this by other parts, on different subjects, each one to be independent and complete in itself, although pagged so as to be bound in volumes if desired.

"We take this course so that those desiring to purchase designs on a certain subject need not be at the necessity of purchasing an expensive book to secure a few needed plates.

"We have now in preparation 'Store Fronts,' 'Barn Plans,' and 'City Houses,' which we shall publish at an early date. These will be followed, from time to time, by parts containing designs on various other Architectural subjects.

"Each part will contain twelve plates, and the text necessary to a clear understanding of the drawings, and be published at \$1 per part.

"WILLIAM T. COMSTOCK, Publisher."

WE have received from J. & R. Lamb, the well known firm of church furnishers, three pamphlets descriptive of their new efforts in ecclesiastical work. The pamphlets cover three branches of the business, metal work, furniture and embroidery, each being profusely illustrated with cuts representing the most recent improvements in these particular lines. The metal work shows the cross and crucifix, brass pulpits, rails, lanterns, memorial brasses, alms basin, altar desks, lecterns, flower vases, candelabra, services, croziers, and a variety of other articles. The furniture includes tables, pews, stalls, chairs, benches, prie dieux, contribution boxes, communion tables, baptismal fonts, and the very many pieces possible with the cabinet maker, while the pamphlet devoted to embroidery embraces a vast wealth of choice pieces, banners, screens, table covers, hangings, frontals, bible marks, surplices, scarfs, all bearing appropriate mottoes, symbols or monograms. It is needless for us to refer to Messrs. J. & R. Lamb's work, as in their line they are certainly unsurpassed and probably unequalled in this city.

THE GRAND ARMY REVIEW is a new monthly, appearing with June, and edited in the usual brilliant style of Mr. W. L. D. O'Grady, formerly captain in the Irish Brigade. The *Review* is first rate in all particulars, it has snap, sparkle and originality; the paragraphs, which are short, are good, and the longer ones are just as interesting, with more of it. Common rumor, which credits veterans of the war on land with the same passion for fighting their battles a second time—on paper—as distinguishes the sailor and his fabulous "yarns," speaks well of this venture that comes to us with Decoration Day, and there is no reason, with the large number of Grand Army men to be interested in it, and under the editorial conduct of such an experienced and exceptional writer as Captain O'Grady, why the paper should not strike right into the path of prosperity.

JOHN CROUMBIE BROWN, LL.D., is one of the most prolific of practical authors, as his many works upon forestry readily demonstrates. The latest volume added to his series is entitled, "Forests and Forestry in Poland, Lithuania, the Ukraine, and the Baltic Provinces of Russia." The usual amount of statistical information is given with an admixture of historical incident which lends an interest to the matter that appeals even to those not directly concerned in the statistics. There is very little we can say concerning this volume, that we have not already said about the earlier ones. It is equally valuable, equally learned, and will, no doubt, find an equally ready public to study and profit from it. (Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, Scotland).

HARPERS' MAGAZINE FOR JULY has just reached us, and in a great measure it atones for the very poor material that has of recent months distinguished it. The current number is magnificent and in every way interesting. The frontispiece is a reproduction of that beautiful panel by F. S. Church, entitled "Pandora," which was so greatly admired at the recent Academy exhibition, and it is engraved in Mr. King's very effective style. The articles which follow are good reading and beautifully illustrated, "The Mohammedans in India" being especially noticeable, while a description of the city of Buffalo is not a whit behind in interest.

RUNDELS, bulls eyes, and stained glass generally has become so popular for use in the interior decoration of new houses that the trade has very materially increased during the past few years. The glass imported from Munich, known as the Schiebersee, and made by J. Marsching & Co., has been very largely used on account of the peculiar brilliancy of its colors. This same firm has recently published four colored ceiling designs, which are quite clever in their originality and no doubt useful as suggestions to decorators.